



# MINUTES

## International Relations Committee

Monday, January 23, 2017

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### MEMBERS PRESENT

Senator Charles Schneider, Vice Chairperson  
Senator Jeff Danielson  
Senator Julian B. Garrett

Representative Terry C. Baxter, Chairperson  
Representative Ako Abdul-Samad  
Representative Marti Anderson  
Representative Stan Gustafson  
Representative Ashley Hinson  
Representative Zach Nunn  
Representative Art Staed

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### I. Procedural Business

**Background and Charge.** The International Relations Committee was created by the Legislative Council in 1992. The committee's charge is as follows: develop goals and procedures that will facilitate international communication between the Iowa General Assembly and foreign governments on several different levels, including but not limited to interpersonal interaction between state legislators and legislative staff and foreign visitors, instruction about state and local democratic institutions, and the development of trade in foreign markets.

**Call to Order.** The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Baxter at 11:02 a.m., Monday, January 23, 2017, in Room 102 of the State Capitol Building in Des Moines.

**Adoption of Rules.** The proposed rules were approved by voice vote of the members.

**Opening Remarks.** Chairperson Baxter expressed his intent to take the committee to a very active level in order to have a stronger voice in the state's trade and economic development activities involving foreign visitors and markets.

**Adjournment.** The meeting adjourned at 11:58 a.m.

### II. Introductions and Committee Discussion

The members introduced themselves and provided personal histories regarding their international experience and connections. Individual members expressed various goals, including but not limited to approaching visitors and committee business in a bipartisan manner, reaching out to visitors and immigrants to this state to build relations, pursuing refugee issues and inviting representatives from RefugeeRISE Americorps to speak about navigators who provide outreach to refugee communities, efforts to express support for national trade agreements, youth issues in other countries that affect immigrants to this state who eventually return to their home countries, and efforts to reach out to international students attending Iowa's high schools, colleges, and universities. Chairperson Baxter asked committee members to contact him regarding future presentations and visits to the Capitol by international delegations and dignitaries and regarding availability for future meetings.

### III. Committee Finances — Gifts

Mr. Bob Lamberti, Legislative Information Officer, Legislative Services Agency, provided members with a document listing the International Fund balance for the 2017-2018 fiscal year. He noted that the Legislative Council allocates \$10,000 for each two-year legislative biennium. The moneys allocated do not carry over to the next General Assembly, nor can the moneys be transferred. Moneys in the fund may be used by legislators for the purchase of official gifts for presentation to official international visitors and for use while on official visits to other countries. Mr. Lamberti observed that the Legislative Information Office currently has approximately \$4,000 in gifts readily available for use by legislators, and he offered to distribute guidelines on such gifts to the members. He also offered to provide members with a detailed monthly report and a five-year history of fund uses. The committee discussed the need for a display case for gifts legislators receive from international visitors and Representative Hinson volunteered to conduct research on the disposition of such gifts. Representatives Abdul-Samad and Anderson offered to provide guidance in choosing gifts for presentation by members.

### IV. Presentation by Economic Development Authority Representatives

Ms. Kathy M. Hill, Team Leader, International Trade, Economic Development Authority; and Mr. Joseph Rude, International Marketing Manager, Asia/Pacific Region, Economic Development Authority,



presented information regarding their work assisting Iowa's companies on a one-on-one basis in developing and expanding export markets, including assistance with international market research and analysis, marketing, export procedures and compliance, customs, trade missions, and trade shows. Ms. Hill noted that every \$1 billion in exports creates 6,000 jobs in the state. She observed that there are three levels of protocol: what you do with unscheduled visitors, what you do with invited delegations, and what you do when visiting other countries. Mr. Rude stressed the importance of being prepared by knowing what is appropriate for the intended audience, such as trade and investment representatives. Knowing the title and rank of a visitor, and where to seat the visitor during a meeting, is very important. Members should err on the side of being too formal, such as establishing a formal agenda for the visit to keep the visit on track. Knowing the visitor's expectations, what the visitor hopes to accomplish with the visit, whether a gift will be presented, who will provide the interpreter if needed, identifying the gender of the person who will be visiting to ensure any gift is appropriate, and determining how a legislative gift may fit in with other gifts that may be presented individually, from another branch of government or from another government official, or from the citizens of Iowa are all important considerations when preparing for international visitors.

### **V. Materials Filed with the Legislative Services Agency**

Materials distributed at or in connection with the meeting are filed with the Legislative Services Agency. The materials may be accessed from the "Committee Documents" link on the committee's Internet Site at: <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/committees/committee?ga=87&session=1&groupID=27764>.

1. Materials Distributed by Ms. Kathy Hill, Economic Development Authority.
2. Proposed Rules.